



New Hampshire Clean School Bus Initiative **Anti-Idling Campaign to Reduce School Bus Emissions**

Clearing the smoke...

In early 2002, the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) teamed up with the New Hampshire School Transportation Association (NHSTA) to launch a voluntary initiative to protect school children and bus drivers from excessive exposure to exhaust emissions from school buses. As part of the initiative, fleet managers and school bus drivers throughout New Hampshire are encouraged to adopt policies and practices to reduce school bus engine idling time whenever possible.

Working together, DES and NHSTA have developed numerous materials and have reached out to school transportation providers and school superintendents through comprehensive mail outs, newsletters, workshops, and bus driver training and awards programs. Special "Clean Air Driver" magnets are given to all drivers to display in their buses to show that they have "taken the pledge" to reduce school bus idling.

For our future...

An idling school bus releases emissions directly into the breathing zone of children. As children line up to board an idling bus, they are exposed to the vehicle's emissions at the most concentrated levels. Limiting the amount of idling time not only reduces exposure of school students to the harmful pollutants in diesel exhaust, but it also improves air quality.

EPA has classified diesel exhaust as a probable human carcinogen. A recent study conducted by researchers from Yale University clearly shows that students' exposure to various concentrations of exhaust emissions increases dramatically while waiting to board and while riding on school buses. This study links the increased exposure directly to idling school buses. The Yale study's primary recommendation was that school buses prohibit unnecessary idling.

School bus drivers can make a significant impact on the health of their passengers and their own health by limiting engine idling whenever possible. Reducing idling also saves fuel, reduces engine wear and tear, and saves school bus companies and school districts thousands of dollars each year.

Our Progress...

Since 2002, New Hampshire's anti-idling campaign has been a huge success – over 40 different fleets have officially adopted anti-idling policies, representing over 70 percent of the school buses in the state! Community leaders and individuals can help support this initiative by talking with students, parents and community groups about the dangers of breathing diesel exhaust; by writing articles; or by attending school board or PTA meetings to raise awareness of the issue.

The next phase of the New Hampshire Clean School Bus Initiative is to reduce school bus emissions through retrofits and use of cleaner fuels. For more information on this initiative, contact Mike Fitzgerald, DES Air Resources Division, at 271-6390 or mfitzgerald@des.state.nh.us.